The Chronicle of Higher Education

This year's freshmen at 4-year colleges: a statistical profile

From the issue dated January 22, 2009

Age, language, race, religion	
Age on December 31, 2008	
17 or younger	1.6%
18	69.5%
19	27.3%
20	1.0%
21 to 24	0.5%
25 or older	0.1%
English is native language	
Yes	91.2%
No	8.8%
Racial and ethnic background	
White/Caucasian	71.9 %
African-American/Black	11.3 %
Asian-American/Asian	8.8 %
Mexican-American/Chicano	5.7 %
Puerto Rican	1.4 %
Other Latino	4.2 %
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.6 %
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.3 %
Other	4.0 %
Religious preference	
Roman Catholic	25.4%
Baptist	10.6%
Methodist	4.5%
Church of Christ	4.4%
Lutheran	3.6%
Presbyterian	3.1%
Jewish	2.6%
Latter-day Saints (Mormon)	2.3%
Episcopalian	1.3%
Buddhist	1.3%
Islamic	0.9%
Hindu	0.8%
United Church of Christ/Congregational	0.7%
Eastern Orthodox	0.7%
Seventh-day Adventist	0.5%
Quaker	0.2%
Other Christian	12.9%
Other religion	3.0%
None	21.2%

Making the choice, sett	ling in	
Number of other colleges applied to for admission this year		
None	15.4%	
1	10.8%	
2	13.7%	
3	15.6%	
4	13.0%	
5	9.6%	

6	7.2%
7 to 10	11.8%
11 or more	2.9%
College attended is student's:	
First choice	60.7%
Second choice	26.1%
Third choice	8.6%
Less than third choice	4.6%
Accepted by first-choice college	
Yes	77.8%
No	22.2%
Miles from college to permanent home	
5 or less	5.4%
6 to 10	5.8%
11 to 50	24.3%
51 to 100	17.3%
101 to 500	33.0%
Over 500	14.1%
Housing plans during fall term	
College residence hall	77.7%
With family or other relatives	14.7%
Other private home, apartment, or room	4.2%
Other campus student housing	2.5%
Fraternity or sorority house	0.5%
Other	0.3%

Top reasons noted as very important in selecting college attended

	All	Men	Women
College has a very good academic reputation	64.7%	59.5%	68.9%
Graduates get good jobs	54.2%	50.5%	57.3%
Was offered financial assistance	43.0%	38.1%	47.0%
A visit to the campus	41.4%	35.7%	46.1%
The cost of attending	39.9%	35.8%	43.3%
Wanted to go to a school about the size of this college	38.5%	31.2%	44.5%
College has a good reputation for its social activities	38.4%	36.2%	40.2%

Finances Concern about financing college All Men Women None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds) 35.9% 42.8% 30.2% Some (but I probably will have enough funds) 53.2% 48.7% 56.9% Major (not sure I will have enough funds to complete college) 10.9% 8.4% 12.9%

Intended majors	
Business	16.7%
Professional	13.8%
Arts and humanities	13.5%
Social Sciences	11.5%
Biological sciences	9.3%
Engineering	9.3%
Education	8.3%
Physical sciences	3.2%
Technical	1.0%
Other fields	7.0%
Undecided	6.2%

Parents

Parents' education (highest leve	Parents'	education	(highest	level)
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	Father	Mother
Grammar school or less	4.1%	3.8%
Some high school	5.1%	3.8%
High-school graduate	19.7%	17.9%
Postsecondary school other than college	3.4%	3.6%
Some college	15.0%	17.5%
College degree	27.4%	32.5%
Some graduate school	2.2%	2.7%
Graduate degree	23.2%	18.3%

Estimated parental income

Less than \$10,000	3.7%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2.8%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	2.5%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	3.4%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	3.3%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	6.3%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	7.3%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	8.3%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	11.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17.6%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	8.0%
\$200,000 to \$249,999	4.1%
\$250,000 or more	7.4%

Status of parents

Both alive and living with each other	70.3%
Both alive, divorced or living apart	25.9%
One or both deceased	3.8%

Political views

Far left	3.2%
Liberal	31.0%
Middle of the road	43.3%
Conservative	20.7%
Far right	1.8%

Opinions

Opinions			
Student rated self above average or highest 10 percent in:	All	Men	Women
Drive to achieve	75.2%	72.6%	77.3%
Cooperativeness	73.7%	72.8%	74.4%
Academic ability	69.5%	73.4%	66.2%
Understanding of others	67.2%	65.3%	68.8%
Leadership ability	61.8%	65.7%	58.7%
Self-confidence (intellectual)	60.7%	69.5%	53.4%
Self-understanding	58.5%	63.5%	54.3%
Creativity	56.8%	57.3%	56.3%
Physical health	55.8%	67.8%	45.9%
Emotional health	54.5%	61.9%	48.3%
Self-confidence (social)	52.5%	57.9%	48.1%
Writing ability	47.5%	45.5%	49.2%

Spirituality 39,9% 30,3% 40,3% 50,3%	Mathematical ability	44.9%	55.0%	36.5%
Popularity				
Computer skills 38.4% 48.4% 30.1% Public-speaking ability 37.7% 41.8% 34.3% Artistic ability 30.6% 29.4% 31.5% 29.4% 31.5% Computer skills 31.6% 29.4% 31.5% Computer skills 31.6% 29.4% 31.5% Computer skills 31.6% Computer skills 20.2%				
Public-speaking ability				
Artistic ability				
Take notes in class				
Take notes in class 65.8% 51.0% 78.0% Support your opinions with a logical argument 57.9% 60.7% 55.8% Ask questions in class 53.9% 49.9% 57.2% Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others 51.7% 50.9% 52.3% Accept mistakes as part of the learning process 51.6% 50.3% 52.7% Seek feedback on your academic work 47.7% 41.1% 53.2% Revise your papers to improve your writing 46.6% 36.9% 54.7% Seek alternative solutions to a problem 44.3% 45.7% 43.1% Take a risk because you feel you have more to gain 40.0% 43.6% 37.0% Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received 37.0% 36.9% 37.1% Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class 14.1 44.3% 43.8% 28.5% Look up scientific-research articles and resources 22.1% 24.0% 20.6% Agree strongly or somewhat that: All Men Men The federal government is not doing enough to control environ				
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Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns A national health-care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status Dissent is a critical component of the political process Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus At 1.3% At 6.7% Same-sex couples should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now 60.4% 59.5% 61.2% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 59.1% 57.6% 61.2% 60.3% 55.0% Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished 47.6% 53.3% 42.7% Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized 41.3% 46.7% 36.8% Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus 40.5% 43.9% 37.6% Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished 34.9% 31.2% 38.0% Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships 23.4% 30.1% 17.9% Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 20.1% 25.1% 16.0%		/9.0%	/5.6%	81.9%
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns A national health-care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status 66.6% 58.8% 72.4% Dissent is a critical component of the political process Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus At 1.3% 46.7% 36.8% Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 79.3% 63.7% 79.3% 65.2% 74.4% 66.6% 65.6% 65.6% 65.6% 67.5% 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 66.2% 58.8% 72.4% 60.2% 58.8% 72.4% 60.2% 59.1% 57.6% 61.2% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 59.1% 57.6% 61.2% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 59.1% 57.6% 61.2% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 59.1% 57.6% 61.2% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 59.1% 57.6% 61.2% 60.4% 59.5% 51.2% 60.5% 52.6% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.8% 43.9% 31.2% 38.0% 24.4% Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships 23.4% 30.1% 17.9%		78.6%	79.6%	77.9%
A national health-care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status 66.6% 55.6% 67.5% Dissent is a critical component of the political process 62.2% 66.0% 58.8% Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Pederal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 20.1% 25.1% 74.4% 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 67.2% 66.0% 67.5% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 67.2% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 67.2% 66.0% 67.5% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 66.6% 65.6% 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 61.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 66.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 66.0% 67.5% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 65.6% 67.5% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 62.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 61.2% 66.0% 61.2% 60.3% 61.2% 60.3% 61.2% 61.2% 61.2% 62.2% 62.2% 62.2% 62.2% 62.6% 62.2% 62.6% 62.2% 62.2% 62.6% 62.2% 62.2% 62.6% 62.2% 62.2% 62.6% 62.2% 62.2% 62.6% 62.2% 62.2% 62.2% 62.6% 62.2% 62.2% 62.6% 62		72.20/	(2.70)	70.20/
Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status Dissent is a critical component of the political process Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus At 1.3% At 1.4% Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America At 2.4% 66.2% 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 66.6% 65.6% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 55.0% 61.2% 60.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 55.0% 41.2% 52.6% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 41.1% 38.1% 38.1% 41.1% 38.1% 41.1% 38.1% 41.1% 38.1% 41	handguns	12.2%	03.7%	19.3%
Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status 66.6% 55.6% 72.4% Dissent is a critical component of the political process 62.2% 66.0% 58.8% Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal 58.2% 59.1% 57.6% There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished 47.6% 53.3% 42.7% Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 66.6% 65.6% 67.5% 67.5% 66.0% 58.8% 72.4% 60.3% 59.1% 57.6% 61.2% 64.2% 60.3% 55.0% 42.7% 44.7% 47.2% 52.6% 42.7% 42.7	A national health-care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical	70.20/	65.20/	74.40/
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status 66.2% 58.8% 72.4% Dissent is a critical component of the political process 62.2% 66.0% 58.8% Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal 58.2% 59.1% 57.6% There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 66.2% 66.0% 58.8% 62.2% 66.0% 59.5% 61.2% 66.0% 59.5% 61.2% 66.0% 59.5% 61.2% 60.3% 57.6% 60.3% 57.6% 60.3% 60.		70.570	03.270	74.470
Dissent is a critical component of the political process Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus At 1.3% At 1.4% Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 62.2% 66.0% 59.5% 61.2% 66.0% 59.5% 61.2% 66.0% 59.5% 61.2% 66.0% 59.5% 61.2% 62.2% 64.2% 62.6% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 36.8% 36.8% 39.5% 41.1% 38.1% 38.0% The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 20.1% 25.1% 16.0%	Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces	66.6%	65.6%	67.5%
Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now Abortion should be legal 58.2% 59.1% 57.6% There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished 47.6% 53.3% 42.7% Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 60.3% 59.1% 60.3% 55.0% 42.7% 4	Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	66.2%	58.8%	72.4%
Abortion should be legal There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 59.1% 5	Dissent is a critical component of the political process	62.2%	66.0%	58.8%
There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 57.4% 60.3% 52.6% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 43.9% 37.6% 38.1% 38.1% 38.1% 38.1% 38.0% 24.4% 24.0% 24.0%	Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	60.4%	59.5%	61.2%
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 47.2% 52.6% 42.7		58.2%	59.1%	57.6%
Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 47.2% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 42.7% 43.9% 37.6% 38.1% 38.1% 38.0% 24.4% 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 24.0%	There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals	57.4%	60.3%	55.0%
education Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 41.3% 46.7% 43.9% 37.6% 38.1% 38.1% 38.0% 24.4% 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 24.0%	Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	47.6%	53.3%	42.7%
Marijuana should be legalized Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 41.3% 46.7% 36.8% 36.8% 41.1% 38.1% 38.1% 24.4% 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% 24.4% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0%	Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public	47.2%	52 6%	12 7%
Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 40.5% 43.9% 37.6% 43.9% 38.1% 38.0% 24.4% 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 24.0%		47.270	32.070	42.770
Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 39.5% 41.1% 38.1% 24.4% 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0%		41.3%		36.8%
The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 39.3% 41.1% 38.1% 38.1% 24.4% 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% 24.4% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 27.3% 30.1% 17.9% 24.0%		40.5%	43.9%	37.6%
The death penalty should be abolished The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit Federal military spending should be increased Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 34.9% 31.2% 38.0% 24.4% 24.4% 24.0% 24.0% 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 24.0%		39.5%	41.1%	38 1%
The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit 28.3% 33.0% 24.4% Federal military spending should be increased 28.0% 32.2% 24.4% Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships 23.4% 30.1% 17.9% Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 20.1% 25.1% 16.0%	preferential treatment in college admissions	37.370		
Federal military spending should be increased28.0%32.2%24.4%Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society27.3%31.3%24.0%It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships23.4%30.1%17.9%Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America20.1%25.1%16.0%			31.2%	38.0%
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% 27.3% 30.1% 17.9% 16.0%		28.3%	33.0%	24.4%
society 27.3% 31.3% 24.0% It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships 23.4% 30.1% 17.9% Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 20.1% 25.1% 16.0%		28.0%	32.2%	24.4%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships 23.4% 30.1% 17.9% Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 20.1% 25.1% 16.0%		27.3%	31.3%	24.0%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America 20.1% 25.1% 16.0%				
	Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	20.1%	25.1%	16.0%

NOTE: The statistics are based on survey responses of 240,580 first-year students entering 340 baccalaureate colleges and universities in the fall of 2008. The figures were statistically adjusted to represent the total population of approximately 1.4 million first-time, full-time students at four-year institutions. Because of rounding or multiple responses, figures may add up to more than 100 percent.

SOURCE: "The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 2008," published by the U. of California at Los Angeles Higher Education Research Institute